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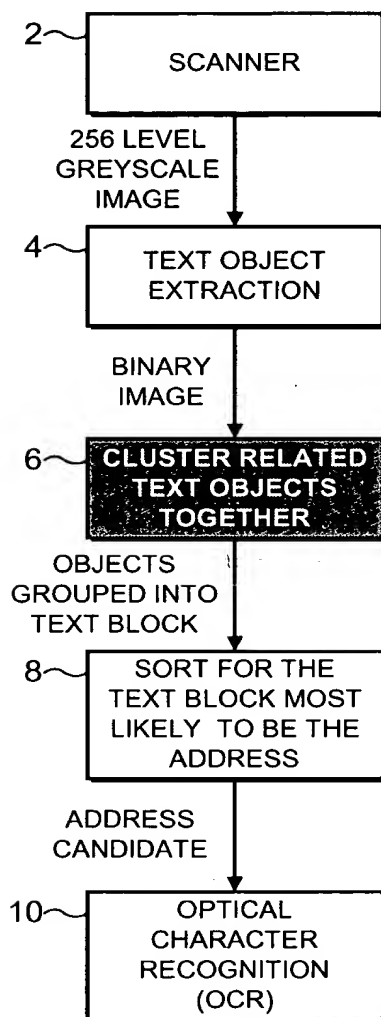
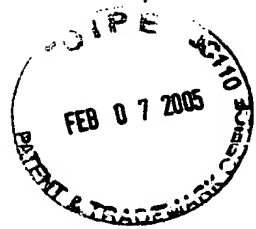


FIG. 1

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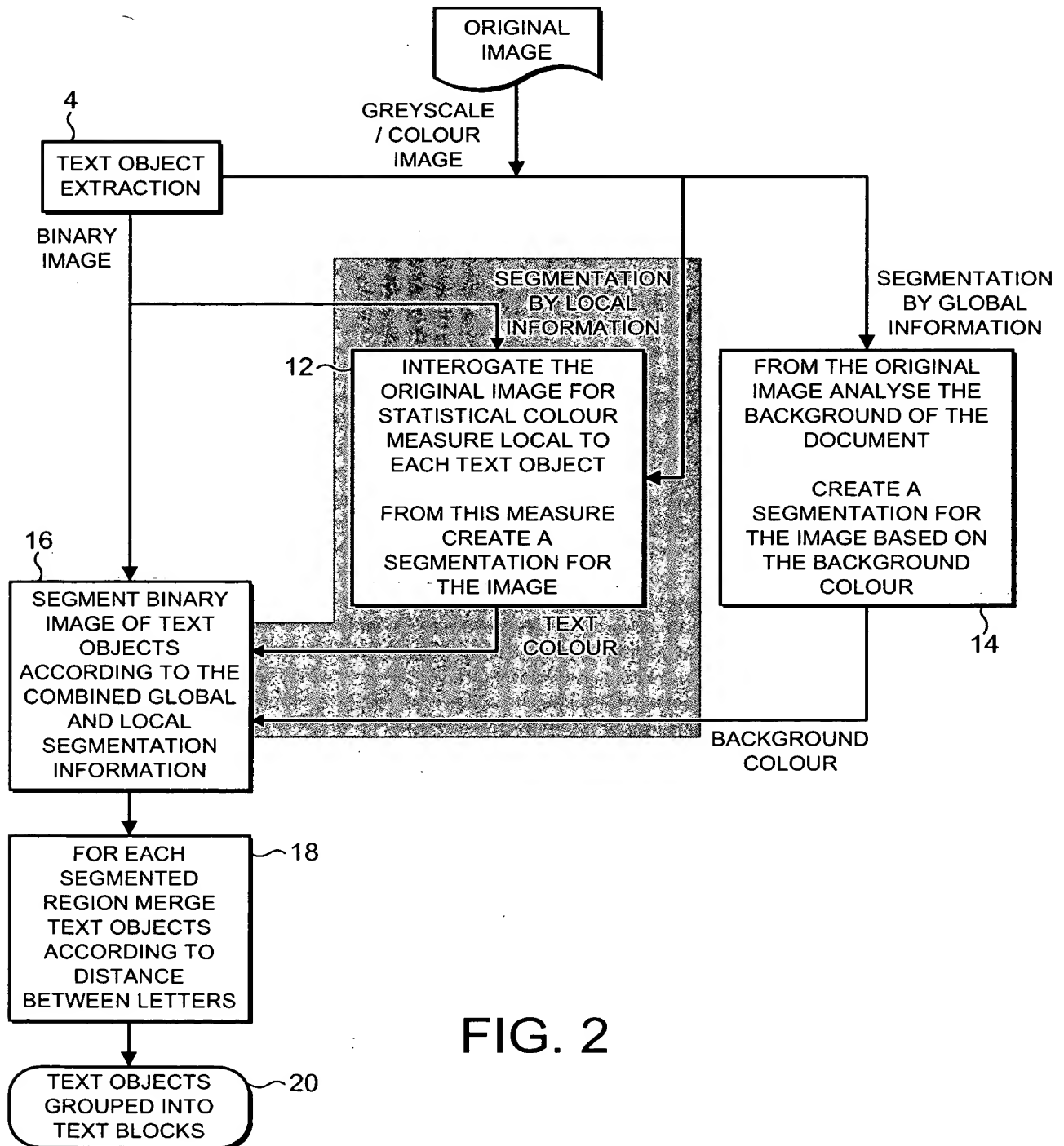
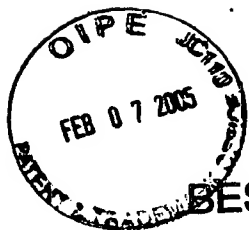


FIG. 2



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A) ORIGINAL  
DOCUMENT IMAGE

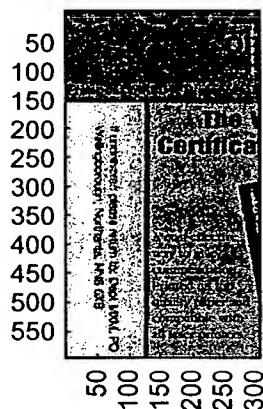


FIG. 3A

B) EXTRACTED BINARY  
TEXT OBJECTS

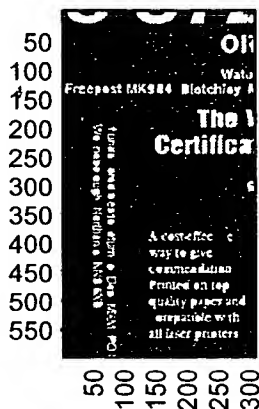


FIG. 3B

C) CLUSTERING USING  
SIMPLE MERGING.  
ALL TEXT OBJECTS  
ARE CLUSTERED  
TOGETHER



FIG. 3C

D) EXTRACT  
BACKGROUND  
FROM ORIGINAL

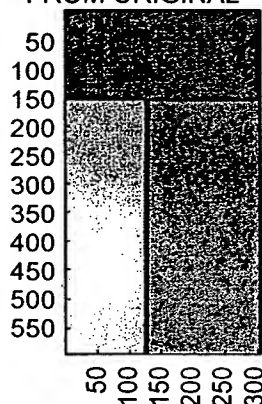


FIG. 3D

E) SEGMENT ACCORDING TO BACKGROUND.  
FOR EACH BACKGROUND REGION SEPARATELY  
APPLY MERGING TO THE TEXT OBJECTS

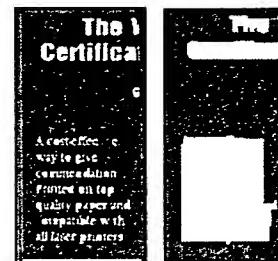
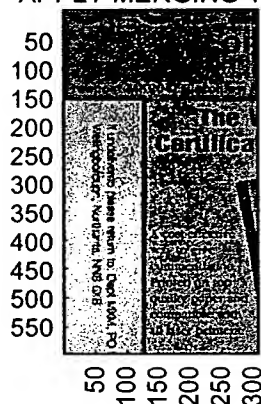


FIG. 3E

F) THE RESULTS ARE  
CLUSTERED TEXT  
OBJECTS THAT HAVE  
CONSISTENT  
BACKGROUND

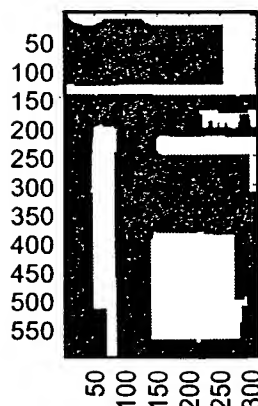


FIG. 3F



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ORIGINAL  
DOCUMENT IMAGE

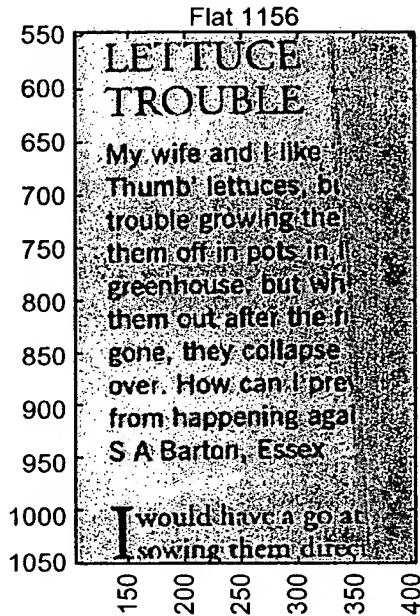


FIG. 4A

FOR EACH OF THE BINARY TEXT OBJECTS  
EXTRACTED THE LOCAL MINIMUM GREYLEVEL  
IS OBTAINED FROM THE ORIGINAL IMAGE.  
THE LOCAL MINIMUM GREYLEVEL IS A  
MEASURE OF THE TEXT COLOUR

MINIMUM GREY  
LEVEL IMAGE



FIG. 4B

THE MINIMUM GREYLEVEL DATA IS USED TO  
BUILD A SEGMENTATION OF THE IMAGE. EACH  
REGION IN SEGMENTATION IS AN AREA OF  
THE IMAGE WHERE THE TEXT COLOUR IS  
CONSISTENT.

MERGED TEXT BLOCKS

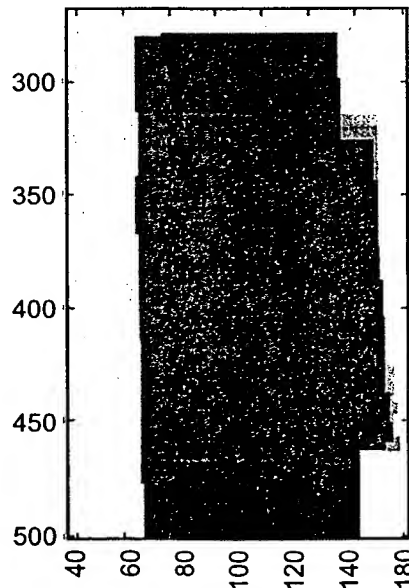
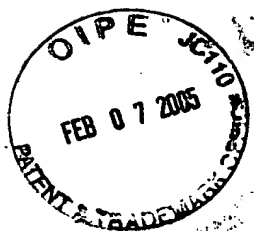


FIG. 4C



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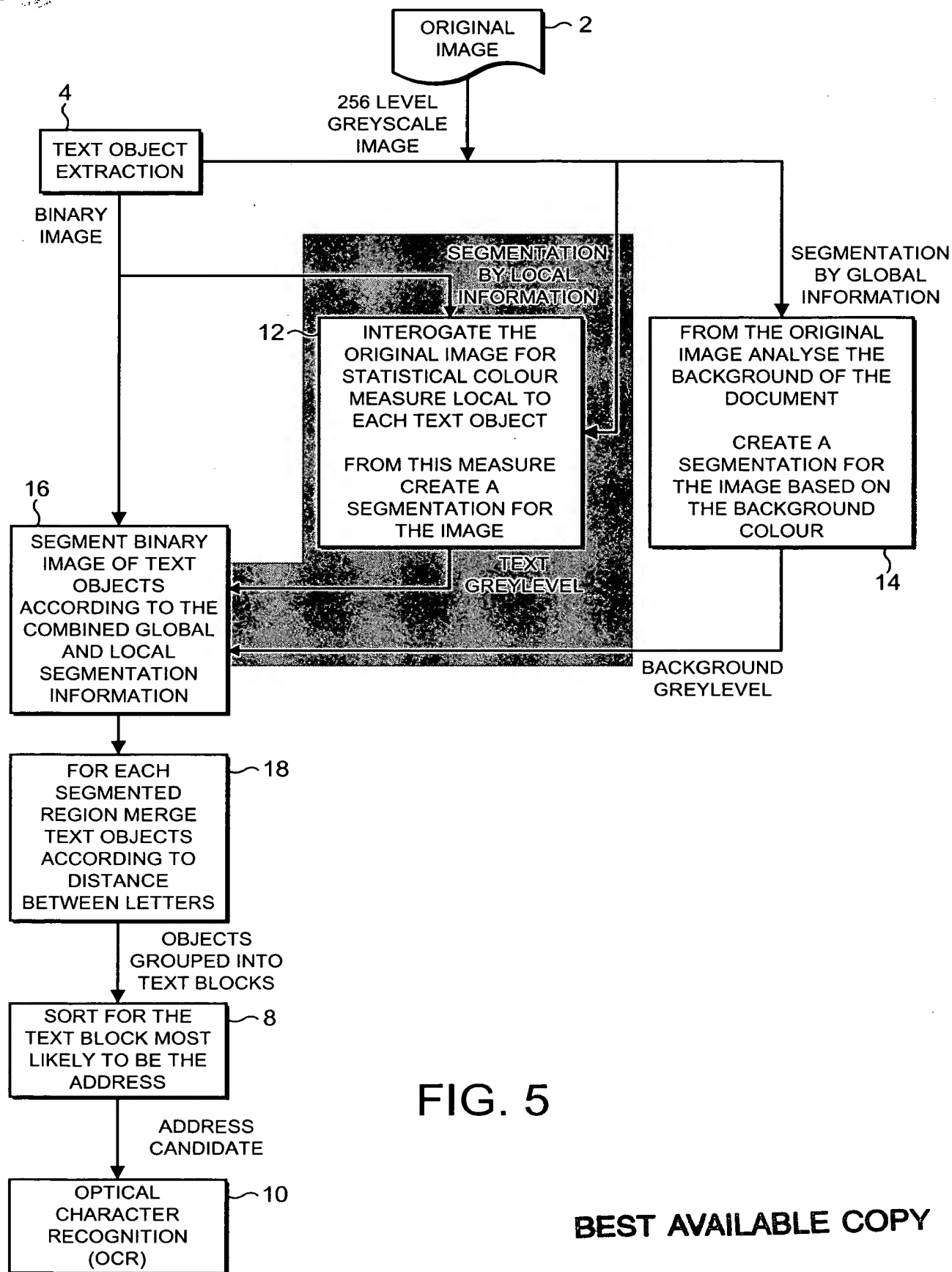


FIG. 5

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